

*“... appropriate
public access and
passive outdoor
recreational
opportunities for
residents and
visitors. . . ”*

1995 Preserve Tax Ballot

PLANNED ACCESS AREAS



Trailheads and Parking Areas Being Planned for Future Use

Access areas are designated points of entry into the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The future access areas will make it possible for Scottsdale residents and visitors to experience the McDowell Sonoran Preserve through hiking, horseback riding, biking, nature studies, bird watching, scenic viewing, picnicking, rock climbing and more.

This bulletin explains what to expect as these planned access areas are created -- the size and location of parking areas, types of passive recreation, plus amenities planned for the Preserve.

Managed, Appropriate Access Benefits the Entire Community

It's important that these future access areas be well planned and managed to prevent unsafe and unwanted trails, disruption of neighborhoods and destruction of sensitive plants and wildlife habitats. Introducing elements such as gates, signs, maps and designated parking in strategic locations can play a vital role in protecting the Preserve's ecosystem while providing safe and sensible recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.

staff.

Planned Community and Local Access Areas

Major Community Access Areas are planned to provide appropriate public access opportunities at key perimeter points. These areas could accommodate parking for up to 300 vehicles, including horse trailers. Major Community Access Areas could include picnic areas, displays, trailheads and restrooms.

Minor Community Access Areas will be smaller in scale, but will also include improvements needed for entry into the Preserve. These areas could accommodate parking for up to 100 vehicles with limited space for horse trailers.

For general information about the McDowell Sonoran Preserve or to comment on proposed access areas and uses, contact the City of Scottsdale Preservation Division at (480) 312-7013, www.ci.scottsdale.az.us/preserve/.

Rules and Regulations

In order to protect the ecosystem, wildlife habitats and prehistoric and historic sites, it is necessary to limit and, in some cases, prohibit, public access into some areas of the Preserve. In May 2000, the Scottsdale City Council passed a McDowell Sonoran Preserve Ordinance. Following are some highlighted rules specific to the Preserve:

- No motorized vehicles are permitted in the Preserve, except in designated parking areas.
- Preserve users must remain on designated and posted trails to prevent damage to the flora and fauna of the area.
- No camping in the Preserve
- No fires and no smoking in the Preserve, due to the high fire danger
- Plant material (alive or dead); sand, gravel, rocks or soil; and any item of archeological significance, may not be removed from the Preserve.
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times in the Preserve, and must remain on established trails (just like their owners!) Animal waste must be picked up and disposed of in a trash receptacle.

Access Areas Come in Many Shapes, Sizes and Functions

This map shows planned and additional locations for various types of access areas. These locations are generalized and amenities listed are possible suggestions. Additional access locations may be identified in the future.

Planned Gateway Access Area

The largest access area is referred to as the Gateway. The Gateway will be located east of Thompson Peak Parkway, north of Bell Road. Its planned location is on relatively flat desert land adjacent to -- but not in -- the mountains. This large facility could have parking for up to 600 vehicles including school and tour buses and horse trailers. Additional parking may be located at Westworld. Structures and parking areas will probably use natural materials and be carefully located to preserve native vegetation and to visually blend with the desert terrain.

The Gateway will lead to shared use trails. Amenities could include picnic areas with ramadas; restrooms; a museum and interpretive center with displays; indoor and outdoor classrooms; concession stand; and perhaps, offices for



PRESERVE MAP



Access Areas Come in Many Shapes, Sizes and Functions

This map shows planned access areas in the Preserve. Areas outside of the Preserve that will provide additional access opportunities are also shown. Locations are generalized and amenities listed are possible suggestions. Additional access locations may be identified in the future.



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The Gateway will lead to shared use trails. Amenities could include picnic areas with ramadas; restrooms; a museum and interpretive center with displays; indoor and outdoor classrooms; concession stand; and perhaps, offices for staff. Amenities will include natural materials to the extent feasible and be carefully located to preserve native vegetation and to visually blend with the desert terrain.



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Local Access may be located within subdivisions and developments. These are not shown on the map as they are for limited use only.



Additional Access Areas

These access areas are outside of the planned Preserve. These areas will work in conjunction with Preserve access areas providing additional parking and trail access to the Preserve.

